



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOGS RESCUED FROM VALLEY CENTER BREEDER CAN BE ADOPTED *County Animal Control Now Accepting Applications from Potential Adopters*

A recent Superior Court ruling has cleared the way for the nearly 150 ill, suffering and neglected dogs seized in May by Animal Control officers from an illegal kennel in Valley Center to be placed in new homes, Department Director Mikel Haas announced today.

Applications are now being accepted by the Department through July 16th from anyone interested in adopting one of the pure-bred English Toy Spaniels, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels or Yorkshire Terriers rescued from the Valley Center property, said Haas.

"These dogs were bred for sale and confined to a filthy, unsanitary environment without proper medical care or attention," said Haas. "It was gratifying to everyone at Animal Control that we could end that misery six weeks ago and get these little guys into the safety and care of our shelter. Now it's finally time to get them into the loving homes they deserve."

Haas warned, however, that because of the environment in which these dogs were kept, nearly all have medical or behavioral problems that could take extensive time and expense to correct.

A special application form and information specific to these dogs is available at any of the three County Animal Shelters -- in San Diego, Bonita and Carlsbad -- or can be downloaded from the Department's Web site: www.sddac.com. Completed applications must be received by the Department no later than 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 16.

Approximately 50-60 of the dogs will be available for adoption through the Department of Animal Control. Applications will be screened. A random draw of the qualified applicants on July 19th will determine which applicants and in what order they will have the opportunity to adopt.

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2-2-2-2 ADOPT

All of the dogs will be spay or neutered, vaccinated and licensed for one year, all for the adoption fee of \$60.

Adoption of another 50 of the dogs will be handled separately by the Department's adoption partners, the San Diego Humane Society and SPCA (619) 299-7012, Rancho Coastal Humane Society (760) 753-6413, and the Friends of County Animal Shelters (FOCAS) at (619) 685-3536.

Potential adopters should contact these organizations directly for information on their respective application forms, adoption procedures and fees.

All of the remaining dogs, which have been diagnosed with the most severe or chronic medical problems, are not being made available for general adoption and have been transferred to a certified breed rescue organization for placement and arrangement for long-term medical care.

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